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than to the *present* mental inferiority of the Negro. This, I admit to be great ; but before we can say that the Negro is naturally incapable of improvement, we must try the effect of improved conditions of life for a period equal to that during which he has existed in a state of degradation, and even then the proof would not necessarily be conclusive.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bendyshe) said that Mr. Mackenzie had, at the last meeting, objected to the term "aborigines" as being derived from a small place in Italy, and had substituted for it the word "autochthones." Now, as the latter meant "made of the earth," while the old term involved no theory but merely a fact, he preferred the former. He then proceeded to thank Mr. Wake in the name of the meeting for his paper and able defence of peculiar opinions.

The following paper was then read :—

On the Condylus Tertius occasionally found in Indian skulls. By C. CARTER BLAKE, Esq., F.G.S., F.A.S.L., Curator and Librarian A.S.L.

The skull which I now exhibit is that of a Yanadi, from Strihurreecottah, in Southern India. It presents the character which the late Dr. Halbertsma, of Leyden, termed *condylus tertius*. I believe it will be found that this character is better developed in the present skull than in the ordinary cases cited in the text books.

The researches of Dr. Halbertsma are chiefly known to English anthropologists by an excellent article signed J. B. D. in the *Anthropological Review* for May, 1865, from which I must quote a few passages :—

"Professor Halbertsma,* says the celebrated anatomist, J. F. Meckel, the third of the name, was the first to fix attention upon a third articular process of the occipital bone in man, occurring on the lower surface of the *pars basilaris*, between the two condyles and behind the so-named *tuberculum pharyngeum*.† The anomaly was not unimportant, since it admits of comparison with the single occipital condyle of birds and scaly reptiles, placed in the median line. Since the appearance of Meckel's Memoir in 1815, the *condylus tertius* has been so frequently observed as to have obtained a sort of citizenship. Meckel noticed it in 1 out of 400 skulls, which does not express the just proportion of its occurrence. Dr. Halbertsma says that he found in 876 skulls, in the Leyden collections, not less than 7 well developed cases, not including those in which there is merely an articular groove for the tooth of the *epistropheus*, or *processus dentatus* of the second cervical vertebra. Of these seven cases, six were in crania from the East Indian Archipelago, and only one in a European. As Meckel's observations must have been made almost entirely upon European skulls, and not oriental ones, it seems likely that the existence of this condyloid process is more frequent in some peoples than in others."

The following are Professor Halbertsma's conclusions :—

* "De derde Gewrichtsknobbeld (*Condylus Tertius*) van het Achterhoofdsknobbeld", door H. J. Halbertsma, 1865.

† "Meckel's Archiv," 1815, Band i, s. 644.

"I. That the *condylus tertius* occurs more frequently in inhabitants of the East Indian Archipelago than in other peoples.

"II. That the *condylus tertius*, in the rule, arises in the further development of a process occurring in the median line ; but equally, although more rarely, it may owe its existence to the fusion of the two protuberances by him designated *processus papillares* of the *pars basilaris* of the occipital bone.

"III. That the condyle arising in the last named manner should be viewed as a hypapophysis."

I now proceed to describe the present specimen.

The skull measures as follows :—Greatest length, 170 mm. ; greatest breadth, 121 mm. ; facial angle, 78 mm. ; cephalic index, 711 mm. ; horizontal circumference, 4450 mm. Between the occipital condyles arises an elevation 2 mm. high, 11 mm. in transverse diameter, and 6 mm. in an antero-posterior direction. The edges of this elevation are slightly rugose, and it is centrally flattened. The surface has been clearly articular for the reception of the head of the axis or second cervical vertebra. The lateral occipital condyles are normal in their direction, size, and form. The pharyngeal tubercle is not developed. There are no par-occipital processes, and the pneumatic process is not developed.

Dr. Barnard Davis, in reply to a letter I addressed him on the subject, writes as follows :—

"Shelton, June 26, 1866.

"MY DEAR SIR,—In reply to yours of yesterday, I may say that the *condylus tertius* of the Yenadie skull from Streehareecotta Island, or *Strikurreecottah*, is the fullest representative of this process I have yet seen, and is more perfect than any figured by Halbertsma, or any in my collection. It appears to have a wide base and to be condyloid in its form, or flattened, not elevated ; but, perhaps, in this particular I may mistake your sketch. Has the surface been an articular one ? Many examples of the anomaly are quite remote from a true condyle. Yours appears to be closely allied to such."

The occurrence of this abnormality in another individual of East Indian origin is a most remarkable fact. I have elsewhere* called attention to the resemblances which *e.g.* skulls of Philippine Islanders and those of the Veddahs of Ceylon present *inter se* in their minute osteology. It must not be forgotten, however, that several cases are on record of the discovery of this tubercle in European, Chinese, North American Indian, and Polynesian skulls. The percentage of occurrence of these cases is, however, not yet on record. I have been, therefore, led to communicate this short notice in order to induce anthropologists to record all similar cases ; for experience has taught us the results which accrue from the publication of each several case of abnormality. When the "*os epactal*" was first noticed, it was considered to be rare and characteristic of the Peruvian race of men ; the moment public attention was directed thereto, similar instances were found to occur in every race. I hope that the exhibition of the present most interesting specimen may lead to a similar result, and one equally beneficial for the progress of philosophical anthropology.

* "Medical Times and Gazette", 1862.